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Benjamin A. Powell was appointed by the President to be General Counsel of the Office of the Director of National Intelligence on January 4, 2006.

Mr. Powell was most recently Associate Counsel and Special Assistant to the President. His work in the White House Counsel's Office included advising the President on various initiatives related to transformation of the Intelligence Community. The Director of National Intelligence welcomes the arrival of Mr. Powell as the General Counsel given the extensive legal issues concerning the implementation of the Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act of 2004.

Before his service at the White House, Mr. Powell was a corporate counsel at Vitria Technology, Inc. in Sunnyvale, California and practiced law at Kellogg, Huber, Hansen, Todd & Evans in Washington, D.C. Previously, he served as a Law Clerk to Justice Byron White and Justice John Paul Stevens on the United States Supreme Court, and to Judge John M. Walker, Jr. on the United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit.

Prior to his career in law, Mr. Powell worked as a computer scientist at the Federal Bureau of Investigation and served as an officer in the United States Air Force. In the Air Force, he managed programs for the Intelligence Community primarily involving computer and network technology. His work included delivering the first Department of Defense intelligence center to exploit and disseminate detection and surveillance data as part of the United States counter-narcotics mission, managing a significant program designing, acquiring, and installing the intelligence data systems required in the then-new National Maritime Intelligence Center, supporting the development and enhancement of the United States Space Command Joint Space Intelligence Center, and providing support to United States Navy Fleet Intelligence Centers, U.S. Central Command and Air Combat Command.

Mr. Powell graduated from the University of Pennsylvania with a degree in Economics from the Wharton School of Business and a degree in Applied Science from the School of Engineering and Applied Science. Mr. Powell also is a graduate of Columbia Law School, where he was a Senior Editor of the Columbia Law Review, Kent Scholar, and Tony Patiño Fellow.



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He is a member of the bar in California, the District of Columbia, and New York. He has published research in the field of artificial intelligence and neural networks.